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For Immediate Release
September 21, 2006

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Tax incentives for land conservation approved by Legislature

LANSING – Legislation to provide tax incentives for preserving land in conservation easements was passed by the House Wednesday, said Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, who credits Rep. Dave Palsrok with helping send the measure to the governor.

“This legislation would allow people who wish to preserve their land and leave it to their heirs to do so without leaving them with an enormous property tax bill,” McManus said. “It is a great bill but it would not have made it this far without Representative Palsrok going the extra mile. He successfully negotiated its passage in the House. This will help preserve Michigan’s scenic open spaces, and that benefits our whole state.”

Senate Bill 1004 would amend the General Property Tax Act to say that a “conservational easement” does not constitute a transfer of property for tax purposes. This exception would not include any buildings or structures on the property, just the land itself. Buildings and structures would still be subject to the increase in taxes when a transfer of property occurs under Proposal A.

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